

EVANS et al.
Application No. 09/763,325
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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the abstract in its entirety and substitute the new abstract attached hereto on a separate page.

ABSTRACT

A packet network is arranged into a hierarchy, having one organization-level portion (CS, P, R2) and three site-level portions (S1, S2, S3). By using forwarding computers and assigning multicast addresses in respect of each portion, the total number of multicast addresses required to send multicast messages to all possible subsets of potential recipients is reduced. This alleviates routers in the network of the burden associated with storing and processing a large amount of multicast addresses.